

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W

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R 211520Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4209

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0402

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, AR

SUBJECT: LABOR-GOA CONFLICT PAPERED OVER--AT LEAST TEMPORARILY

REF: BA 0363

1. SUMMARY. POTENTIAL SERIOUS CONFLICT BETWEEN LABOR AND PRESIDENT AND HER ADVISORS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AT LEAST TEMPORARILY DEFUSED FOLLOWING SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT YESTERDAY (JANUARY 20). END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT PERON MET ON JANUARY 20 WITH 62 ORGANIZATIONS LEADER LORENZO MIGUEL, WITH RAUL LASTIRI AND WITH THE JUSTICIALIST PARTY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. STATEMENTS BY ALL INDICATE MODUS VIVENDI HAS BEEN REACHED. SALIENT COMMENTS FOLLOW.

3. LORENZO MIGUEL: DENIED ANY DIFFERENCES WITH PRESIDENT, HER ADVISORS OR LASTIRI; SAID THERE WAS NO LABOR CONFRONTATION WITH PRESIDENT, BUT HAD TOLD HER LABOR DESIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN SOLUTION OF ALL THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS; REJECTED ANY RECONCILIATION WITH BA GOV CALABRO AS THE LABOR MOVEMENT "DOES NOT DEAL WITH TRAITORS;" REVEALED PRESIDENT HAD ASSURED HIM THERE WOULD BE NO ADDITIONAL CABINET CHANGES; AND DISCLAIMED ANY INTENT TO SEEK A CAFIERO-MIGUEL CANDIDACY FOR FORTHCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

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4. JUSTICIALIST PARTY SECOND VICE PRESIDENT BAEZ: FOLLOWING

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT STATED PARTY HAD DISAUTHORIZED ANY CAMPAIGN SEEKING THE RE-ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PERON; RATIFIED THAT PARTY WOULD BE REORGANIZED BY "DIRECT, SECRET VOTE OF ALL PERONISTS;" AND REITERATED THE PARTY'S WILLINGNESS TO DIALOGUE WITH ALL PARTIES AND SECTORS.

5. RAUL LASTIRI: STATED HE HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH LABOR MOVEMENT; DENIED HE HAD ANY INFLUENCE ON PRESIDENT, BUT RATHER ONLY GAVE HIS OPINION WHEN ASKED; HE SAID LOPEZ REGA WAS NEITHER DEAD NOR IN THE COUNTRY, BUT HE NEITHER KNEW NOR WANTED TO KNOW WHERE HE ACTUALLY IS.

6. GT SECEN HERRERAS IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT PERON AT NOON JANUARY 21. DURING EVENING CGT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL SET LABOR POSITION ON SALARY QUESTION, TO BE FOLLOWED WITH MEETING WITH ECONMIN CAFIERO TO FINALIZE AGREEMENT. DURING JANUARY 20 PRESS CONFERENCE HERRERAS SUGGESTED THAT TIME HAD ARRIVED FOR "NATIONAL ENCOUNTER" BETWEEN ALL REPRESENTATIVE SECTORS AND PARTIES. OF SPECIAL NOTE WAS SUGGESTION THAT THE CHURCH CONVOKE NATIONAL ENCOUNTER TO ALLAY SUSPICIONS THAT MOVE WOULD BE NO MORE THAN PERONIST PARTY PLOY.

7. COMMENT. THUS, WHAT APPEARED TO BE BUILDING UP TO ANOTHER MAJOR CONFLICT BETWEEN LABOR AND THE PRESIDENT NOW SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DEFUSED--AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT. MRS. PERON APPARENTLY PAPERED OVER HER FAILURE TO CONSULT WITH LABOR OR HONOR THEIR DEMANDS IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT CABINET CHANGES. APPARENTLY, TOO, SHE GAVE ASSURANCES THAT SHE DOES NOT PLAN (RIGHT NOW ANYWAY) TO SACK CAFIERO OR RUCKAUF. LABOR, ON ITS SIDE, APPEARS TO HAVE DROPPED ITS DEMANDS FOR OUSTER OF DEMARCO AND GONZALEZ. TRUCE IS, NONETHELESS, OBVIOUSLY AN UNEASY ONE. IT WAS PROBABLY INSPIRED BY CONCLUSION THAT "IF WE DON'T STICK TOGETHER, WE'LL SINK." EVEN FACT THAT LABOR AND MRS. PERON APPEAR TO HAVE TEMPORARILY PATCHED UP THEIR DIFFERENCES, HOWEVER, HAS NOT DISSIPATED ATMOSPHERE OF CRISIS AGAIN PREVALENT AND RADICALES AS WELL AS CASILDO HERRERAS (SEE ABOVE) ARE TALKING OF NEED FOR MULTISECTOR MEETING TO ESTABLISH CONSENSUS AND AVOID INSTITUTIONAL COLLAPSE. AS INSTITUTIONS AND SECTORS REMAIN IN DISARRAY, HOWEVER, THIS MAY BE VAIN HOPE.

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